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1  1.      (Currently amended) A method for distributed data archiving, comprising the
2  steps of:
3              accessing <u>a patient's medical</u> data from [at least one] <u>a plurality of</u>
4  external source<u>s;</u> segmenting the data into [at least one] <u>a plurality of</u>
5  information group<u>s;</u> and
6              storing said [at least one] information group<u>s</u> onto [one of a plurality
7  of] <u>an</u> archival storage media, said [at least one] information group<u>s</u> being
8  stored on said [one] archival storage [medium] <u>media</u> with <u>each group having</u>
9  an identification that is unique from <u>that of</u> any other information groups
10 stored within said archival storage media <u>and all other archival storage</u>
11 <u>media from the same or different archive systems,</u> so that said information
12 groups are capable of being independently accessed<u>, within or without the</u>
13 <u>archive system in which they were created</u>.

1  2.      (original)   A method according to claim 1, wherein said archival storage
2  media comprise digital versatile disks (DVDS).

1  3.      (original)   A method according to claim 1, wherein each said archival
2  storage media comprises a self-contained database file for each of said information
3  groups.

1  4.      (original)   A method according to claim 3, wherein said database file is
2  implemented by Digital Image Communications for Medicine (DICOM-3)..

1  5.      (original)   A method according to claim 3, wherein said information groups
2  comprise meta-data and image data.

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1      6.      (original)    A method according to claim 5, wherein each of said archival
2      storage media comprises an embedded image player for viewing the images.

1      7.      (original)    A method according to claim 5, wherein each of said archival
2      storage media comprises an application for interpreting the meta-data.

1      8.      (original)    A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of
2      creating an index file on each of said archival storage media for characterizing said
3      information groups stored thereon.

1      9.      (original)    A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of
2      creating an executable program on each of said archival storage media for
3      retrieving said information groups stored thereon.

1      10.     (original)    A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of
2      recording said information groups on said archival storage media as near-line and
3      off-line storage.

1      11.     (original)    A method according to claim 1, wherein a first subset of said
2      archival storage media is provided as on-line storage.

1      12.     (original)    A method according to claim 1, wherein a second subset of said
2      archival storage media is provided as near-line storage.

1      13.     (original)    A method according to claim 1, wherein a third subset of said
2      archival storage media is provided as off-line storage.

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1     14.    (currently amended)  A method according to claim [10] 11, wherein said on-
2     line storage comprises a hard disk.


1     15.    (currently amended)  A method according to claim [11] 12, wherein said
2     near-line storage comprises a jukebox storage for providing sequentially selectable
3     access to at least one archival storage media.


1     16.    (currently amended)  A method according to claim[12] 13, wherein said off-
2     line storage comprises shelf storage for said archival storage media.


1     17.    (currently amended)  A distributed data archiving system, comprising,
2            a user interface for controlling the system, said user interface
3     including a processor for receiving data from [at least one] a plurality of
4     external sources and segmenting the data into [at least one] a plurality of
5     information groups; and
6            a memory storage for storing information groups, said memory
7     storage including [a plurality of] an archival storage media for storing said [at
8     least one] information groups onto [one of] said archival storage media, each
9     information group having [with] an identification that is unique from that of
10    any other of said information groups stored thereon or stored on any other
11    archival storage media from the same or different archive systems, so that
12    said information groups are capable of being independently accessed, within
13    or without the archive system in which they were created.

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14          18.     (original)  A distributed data archiving system according to claim 17, wherein
15          said user interface comprises a personal computer.

1           19.     (original)  A distributed data archiving system according to claim 17, wherein
2           said external source comprises a workstation.

1           20.     (original)  A distributed data archiving system according to claim 17, wherein
2           said external source comprises a network compatible device.

1           21,     (original)  A distributed data archiving system according to claim 17, wherein
2           said memory storage comprises on-line, near-line, and off-line storage media.

3           22.     (original)  A distributed data archiving system according to claim 21, wherein
4           said on-line storage medium comprises a hard disk.

1           23.     (original)  A distributed data archiving system according to claim 21, wherein
2           said on-line storage medium comprises a redundant array of independent disks.

1           24.     (original)  A distributed data archiving system according to claim 21, wherein
2           said near-line storage medium comprises a jukebox storage for providing
3           sequentially selectable access to said archival storage media.

1           25.     (original)  A distributed data archiving system according to claim 21, wherein
2           said off-line storage medium comprises shelf storage for said archival storage
3           media.

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1      26.     (original)  A distributed data archiving system according to claim 17, wherein
2      said user interface creates an index file for characterizing all of said information
3      groups to be stored on said archival storage media and stores said index file and
4      said information groups on said archival storage media.

1      27.     (original)  A distributed data archiving system according to claim 17, wherein
2      said user interface creates an executable program for retrieving said information
3      groups stored on said archival storage media and stores said executable program
4      on aid archival storage media.

1      28.     (original)  A distributed data archiving system according to claim 17, wherein
2      said archival storage media comprise digital versatile disks (DVDs).

1      29.     (original)  A distributed data archiving system according to claim 17, wherein
2      each said archival storage media comprises a self-contained database file for each
3      of said information groups.

1      30.     (original)  A distributed data archiving system according to claim 29, wherein
2      said database file is implemented by Digital Image Communications for Medicine
3      (DICOM-3).

1      31.     (original)  A distributed data archiving system according to claim 21, further
2      comprising a media recorder for recording said information groups on said archival
3      storage media as near-line and off-line archival storage media.

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